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1983: The Year to Stop the Deployment of the Cruise and Pershing II Missiles

By Donna Cooper

More than ever before the peace work of those in Europe and the South Pacific is having an impact in the United States. Likewise, the tremendous work of the peace movement in the United States is generating strength and creativity to those abroad. 1983 is crucial in the global struggle to freeze, reverse and completely abolish the arms race. Thousands of new warheads will be built. The Reagan Administration has committed to producing 17,000 new nuclear warheads in the next ten years (that's 4.66 warheads a day). The MX missile will complete its stage of testing. Presently this missile is being shot tested from Vandenberg Air Force Base, in Lompoc, California, to Kwajelan, an island in the South Pacific. One more trident submarine will be sent out into the waters of the Pacific Ocean in 1983. And the deployment of 464 Ground Launched Cruise Missiles and 108 Pershing II Missiles in Europe will make that continent an even greater target for "theater" nuclear war.

The deployment of the cruise and Pershing II missiles will cause a dramatic change in the global nuclear arsenal, escalating the technology and danger that already looms in the arms race. The Pershing II can reach the city of Leningrad from its site in West Germany within six minutes and can hit Moscow in eight minutes. RADAG (The Pershing II's computerized target system) allows the missile to hone in and hit within 60-120 feet of its intended target.

The cruise missile can hit with just as accurate a shot: Its system, TERCOM, is so sophisticated that it is able to map out the flight of the cruise so that it can fly low over the terrain, change course for obstacles and still hit within 60-120 feet of the target. The missile flies at approximately the speed of a jet airplane, but with its low flight possibilities, the opposition's radar may never even know that this missile is on its way.

Both of these systems can carry warheads at least 15 times the explosive power of the bomb dropped on Hiroshima. The sophistication of these two weapons moves the global nuclear arms race into a new sphere of technology and innovation.

The Cruise and Pershing II missiles are a hot topic of debate worldwide. As the United States sends negotiators to Geneva, President Reagan sent Vice-President Bush on a door-to-door sales mission for the new missiles to the Europeans heads of state. The talks in Geneva have become primarily a propaganda site where each superpower publically postures to gain the world's favor.

Yet, the European people are dealing with the fact that this deployment will soon be a reality. The severe stalemate of the in-

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Greenham Common Air Force Base, Dec. 12, 1983. More than 30,000 women "embraced the base," where 96 cruise missiles will be deployed in late 1983, and decorated the fence with symbols of their resistance. *Photo by Brenda Price.*

Jobs With Peace Gains Momentum

By Mandy Carter

We call upon the United States Congress to make more money available for jobs and programs—in education, transportation, housing, health care, human services, and other socially productive industries—by significantly reducing the amount of our tax dollars spent on nuclear weapons, foreign military intervention and wasteful military programs; these policies will promote a healthy economy, true national security and jobs with peace.

—Jobs with Peace Policy Statement

The Jobs with Peace (JwP) Campaign is a nationwide effort to transfer money from wasteful military programs to pressing domestic needs. Through local referenda, resolutions, petition drives, forums, and publication of educational materials, people from all walks of life are working together to reverse the arms race. They want to reclaim their tax dollars for jobs and services in an economy based on peace and providing for human needs.

While 10 million people are out of work, the Reagan administration is embarked on the largest peacetime budget military build-up in United States history—more than $1.6 trillion over the next five years. This program will cost the average family over $20,000 in income taxes in that time.

At the same time, spending on vital domestic programs is being severely reduced. In fiscal year 1982, Congress cut $35 billion from programs such as public education, job safety, unemployment compensation, food stamps, and environmental protection. In contrast, the military budget was increased by $30 billion. Future years will bring still more cuts in essential programs and even larger increases in military spending.

Record levels of military spending have resulted in soaring joblessness, drastic cuts in aid to families and local governments, huge budget deficits, and record interest rates. As a result, millions of Americans have begun to make the connection between our declining economy and increased military spending and to demand that federal priorities be reversed.

The first Jobs with Peace initiative was placed on the San Francisco ballot in the fall of 1978 with over 19,000 petition signatures. A declaration of City policy, it asked voters: "Shall the people of the City and County of San Francisco demand that the Federal Government cease spending our tax money for wasteful military purposes and instead use it to provide the jobs and services that our people so desperately need, thereby creating jos with peace by cutting the military budget?"

The San Francisco JwP initiative passed on November 7, 1978, with 107.000 votes (61%) in favor and 69,000 opposed. Upon its passage, its text became the policy of San Francisco.

This initiative marked the first time that citizens had ever voted on Federal priorities and that people had had a chance to use the electoral-initiative apparatus as a means to organize a response to the federal governments budgetary policies.

Mandy Carter is on the staff of the War Resisters League regional office in Durham, North Carolina.

In over 50 cities and towns this past November, voters overwhelmingly approved Jobs with Peace referendums. A partial list includes Boston, MA; San Jose, Oakland, San Francisco, CA; Pittsburgh, PA; Baltimore, MD; Lansing, MI and LaCrosse, WI.

Jobs with Peace is building a popular movement for reduced military spending. Teachers around the country have begun to introduce into their lessons a Jobs with Peace curriculum. Fifty-three congressional representatives have introduced a Jobs with Peace resolution in the U.S. Congress.

This April 10-16 a national Jobs with Peace Week is scheduled to provide a mechanism for local peace, labor, community and religious groups to continue activity and debate on these issues in local governments, Congress, and in schools, churches, and neighborhoods.

Local Jobs with Peace campaign activities will include:

JOBS WITH PEACE BUDGETS—Easy-to-read brochures could be prepared detailing the local impact of federal budget cuts, the Pentagon tax drain, and the job losses to individuals. The budget could describe the jobs and services which could be developed with civilian use of these funds. Unions, religious groups, and community organizations can participate in formulating these budgets, and in distributing them widely in the community through their organizations, as well as by the city itself. An excellent resource for preparing a Peace Budget can be gotten by writing to the east coast office of Jobs with Peace, 77 Summer Street, Suite 1111, Boston, MA 02110.

LOCAL ORGANS OF GOVERNMENT Religious, labor, peace and community groups can petition their city councils, school communities and other local agencies to call upon the Congress to cut military spending and return tax dollars to their community for jobs and services.

JOBS WITH PEACE WEEK, APRIL 10-16, 1983—Public forums, conferences or demonstrations could focus on military spending, budget priorities and jobs. These could take the form of accountability hearings with congressional representatives, or public events focussing on constituences especially hard-hit in education, unemployment, health care or welfare cuts.

War Resisters League/Southeast will be actively participating in a Durham Jobs with Peace Campaign via the Triangle Project on Military Spending and Human Needs. The Triangle area is made up of three cities—Durham, Chapel Hill and Raleigh—in North Carolina.

Our local JwP campaign efforts will include: 1) educational, organizational and outreach work between now and including April 10-16 (JwP Week). 2) JwP Week will concentrate on the social and economic consequences of military spending in Durham. It will examine the impact of the federal budget cuts on individuals, programs and the Durham government. 3) We're encouraging local religious, labor and community groups to endorse the JwP call and support JwP Week. 4) We'll be preparing and distributing a Durham Peace Budget. 5) A major event is being scheduled that would include speakers, workshops, films, etc. 6) We'll be making use of local radio, tv and newspapers in our educational and outreach work. 7) We'll be holding a "people's referendum" with "polling" locations to include shopping centers, universities, schools, churches and other places where people congregate.

If you would like a copy of our local Durham JwP campaign outline, write WRL Southeast, 604 West Chapel Hill St., Durham, NC 27701.

For more information about the Jobs with Peace national organizing campaign, contact the Jobs with Peace National Network, 2940 16th St., Suite B-1, San Francisco, CA 94103.

August 27—
Save This Date

We'd like to encourage all of our members to plan to participate in the August 27 Martin Luther King March on Washington for Jobs, Peace and Freedom (on the 20th anniversary of the 1963 Civil Rights March on Washington). We will keep you informed on the plans for this day, both in Washington DC and in other cities.

Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp Nationwide Tour

On December 12, 1982, the Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp united over 40,000 women in a massive demonstration that captured the hearts and minds of Europeans with its courageous action and creative spirit. "Arms are for linking" the women cried, as they surrounded the 9-mile expanse of the U.S. military base. The next day, over 3,000 women sat in, blocking the entrances to the base.

Women's resistance at Greenham Common began in the summer of 1981. A small group of women set off on a 125-mile march from Cardiff, Wales, to Greenham Common, an active U.S. Air Force Base, 70 miles from London. The women were trying to publicize the fact that the United States and NATO were planning to deploy 96 cruise missiles at the base by December 1983. But the women received very little attention when they arrived and so they decided to set up their tents and stay for a while.

The women have been there ever since. Over the last year and a half, hundreds have passed through the camp, taking their turn at maintaining a constant presence at the gates to the base. Many who came found that the camp not only provided a daily way to protest the deployment of these missiles, but, that as a women's community, the camp offered support and strength to its participants.

The actions of the women at Greenham Common have provided renewed inspiration to the European peace movement. Media coverage in England has been excellent and Greenham has become a household word. But, if you read the American press reports you would never know the impact that the peace camp has had in Europe.

For this reason, the War Resisters League and the NYC Women's Pentagon Action are co-sponsoring a nationwide tour of two women from the Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp. We feel a need to get the word out about what these women have been doing, and to hear about it in their own words.

As we go to press, the dates and places of where the women will be speaking have not been set. The tour will run from late April until early June. Please write to the WRL, 339 Lafayette Street, New York, NY 10012 for an update on where and when the women will be appearing.

Women's Peace Encampment at Seneca Army Depot

By Susan Pines

Women from the United States are planning a peace encampment of their own. Inspired by the women of Greenham Common, women in the United States will take their message to the Seneca Army Depot in upstate New York. The War Resisters League will be one of the sponsors of this peace encampment.

The "Vision Statement" for the encampment reads:

Women have played an important role throughout our history in opposing violence and oppression. We have been the operators of the Underground Railroad, the spirit of the equal rights movement and the strength of the peace movement. In 1590, the women of the Iroquois Nation met in Seneca to demand an end to war among the tribes. In 1848 the first Women's Rights Convention met at Seneca Falls giving shape and voice to the 19th century feminist movement.

Once again women are gathering at Seneca—this time to challenge the nuclear threat at its doorstep. The Seneca Army Depot, a Native American homeland once nurtured and protected by the Iroquois, is now the storage site for the neutron bomb and most likely the Pershing II missile and is the departure point for weapons to be deployed in Europe. Women from New York State, from the United States and Canada, from Europe, and, indeed, from all over the world, are committed to nonviolent action to stop the deployment of these weapons.

The existence of nuclear weapons is killing us. Their production contaminates our environment, destroys our natural resources, and depletes our human energy and creativity. But the most critical danger they represent is to life itself. Sickness, accidents, genetic damage and death, these are the real products of the nuclear arms race. We say no to the threat of global holocaust, no to the arms race, no to death. We say yes to a world where people, animals, plants and the earth itself are respected and valued.

The encampment is planned to begin on July 4, and run through Labor Day weekend. Women are encouraged to come for a couple of hours, a day, a weekend, a week, whatever their schedule allows. Throughout the summer there will be workshops, forums and meetings at the encampment and leafletting, vigils and other actions at the base itself (some of which may include civil disobedience). WRL will keep you informed of these events and activities as they develop.

Susan Pines is a member of the WRL national staff.

Euromissiles

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ternational negotiations set up to reverse the trends of the spiraling arms race has caused the Europeans to take disarmament into their own hands by calling for no U.S. cruise and Pershing and no Soviet SS-20 missiles in Europe. The call is for a nuclear free Europe—East and West. Thousands have marched, participated in direct actions and met with government officials to continue to raise the level of debate to forums where the decision-makers cannot avoid addressing the issue of deployment. Both in Germany and England, upcoming elections will generate a forum for national debate on this question.

The German elections on March 6th will be influenced by the Green party which opposes the deployment, the social democrats who are split on the issue, and by the conservative coalitions which support the United States completely. Polls taken by several West German publications show a strong opposition to these systems which could translate into the peace movement having power in the elections.

In England, elections will be held in late summer or early fall. The Labor Party in Britain has rejected the deployment and has made it an issue in their campaign. At this point, the Torys are supporting the decision, but combined with the economic troubles of Britain, that support might be the straw that gets Thatcher out of office.

Neither the Netherlands nor Belgium have made any decisions about the deployment, and signals sent off by the other European elections may play heavily on the decisions of these nations. As for Italy, the government has accepted the cruise missiles that are to be sited in Sicily. But the population of Sicily and much of the mainland opposes this decision. The activity of the peace movement is growing and becoming more sophisticated each day all over the Italian countryside.

Surrounding all the parliamentary debate and elections all across Europe, the level of energy is high and the demand for a nuclear free Europe gains new strength all the time. The heat is on! 1983 is the year to stop the deployment of these weapons. The struggle will be international. The call to end the arms race will ring from California to West Berlin. Negotiators and statesmen have had their chance and now the people from the United States and Europe will move to block this deployment.

Donna Cooper is on the national staff of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

Catholic Bishops Condemn Nuclear War

By Tom Cornell

The Catholic bishops' pastoral letter on disarmament is scheduled for approval at an extraordinary conference of the whole episcopate this spring, in Chicago. The contents of the first and second drafts alarmed the White House and gained wide attention in the media. They alarmed some more conservative West European bishops also. The second draft is 80 pages long, leans heavily on Biblical theology, taking into account "the signs of the times," and reflective of the Vatican Council's Constitution on the Church in the Modern World and of Rome's most recent pronouncements on disarmament. The letter is meant, in part, as an aid to the public debate on questions of nuclear war, defense and deterrence, bringing traditional Christian and Catholic principles to bear on matters of public policy, and in part as an aid to Catholic faithful in coming to decisions about their own roles as citizens in a nuclear superpower.

Briefly, the letter emphatically condemns nuclear war as irrational and immoral, because no goal can be attained by it that is proportionate to the moral and physical evil that would result. Therefore, no first use can be tolerated. Nuclear retaliation is condemned as well, as useless. The bishops leave open the possibility that there might be some theoretical situation in which use of nuclear arms might be morally tolerable, but the area of possibility is so circumscribed that one is tempted to ludicrous analogies.

The letter questions the morality of the production and possession of weapons capable of these acts, but does not condemn deterrence theory outright. In line with the speech given by Cardinal Casaroli at the Second U.N. Special Session on Disarmament last spring on behalf of Pope John Paul II, which established the Vatican's policy on the question, the bishops are willing to tolerate the deterrent only as long and insofar as it leads to sincere and effective measures towards arms control, reduction and disarmament. You and I might wonder how deterrence can of itself lead anywhere but to arms escalation, but we are unused to the political ways of Vatican diplomacy.

The bottom line is this: the bishops are telling the faithful, the Administration, and the public at large that the Church will give only so much time before it has to condemn U.S. defense policy outright. The deterrent is tolerable only temporarily, on condition that sincere and effective efforts be made towards disarmament. No results and expect a head-on collision between Church and State.

The bishops are putting themselves on the line, and on the spot, because we can come back to them next year, and the year after, and demand their assessment of the progress made by the government toward disarmament, and force them, by their own pronouncement to make prudential judgments to precipitate that collision.

The bishops' ad hoc committee drafting the pastoral is a cross-section of the episcopate. Its chairman is Joseph Bernardin, former Archbishop of Cincinnati recently installed as Archbishop of Chicago. Bernardin recently received his red hat as cardinal of the Church of Rome, that is, one of the principal assistants to the Pope in the governance of the Universal Church. That is a clear sign that the Vatican is pleased by the pastoral letter. On the dove end of the bishops' committee is Thomas Gumbleton, auxilliary bishop of Detroit, president of Pax Christi, USA, and a long time Catholic Peace Fellowship member. He is best known to the public for the visible role he played (most skillfully) in the Iranian hostage crisis.

Another is David Reilly, bishop of Norwich (Connecticut), home of Electric Boat where many of us have gone on pilgrimage to the shrines of Polaris and Trident. Reilly supports many pacifist projects in the area.

On the hawk end is John O'Connor, auxilliary bishop of New York and head of the military ordinariate, that is, in charge of all the Catholic chaplains in the U.S. armed forces. Bishop O'Connor and Bishop Gumbleton agree on the first and second drafts of the letter!

Why should secularists be interested in the bishops' teaching on disarmament, and how can it make any difference in the end? If the letter were to have no impact even its power of exposition and of argument would be of no interest. The letter will not effect an about-face by the nearly one-quarter of the U.S. population numbered as Catholic. It is not the post Vatican II style to make demands which will in any event be ignored.

But the letter will have a profound effect as it shapes the teaching in the many organs of the Church, through the local parishes, the several levels of schools and teacher-training institutions. Textbooks and materials will be modified or developed anew. Peace education will be a part of many kinds of conferences for Church personnel and activists.

The text should be of profound interest to any thinking person, whatever his or her basic attitude toward religion, Christianity, Catholocism, etc., because it is a model of clarity, intellectually exciting, intensely energizing, and hope-inspiring. Dan Ellsberg was recently quoted as saying that after reading the text he felt, for the first time, that it is now reasonable to have confidence that we can escape the arms race and its disastrous consequences, and that the bishops have put a necessary ingredient into the formula for political change.

The text has not yet been approved. It is impossible to say definitively that there will be no drawing back by the bishops from their positions in the spring meeting in Chicago. But I have been able to follow at close range some of the politics of the development of the text, having been a consultant to the bishops' disarmament committee.

The Catholic Church has never been known for political lightweights and the famed skill of Vatican diplomats is shared by many in the Church in America. Archbishop Bernardin had no intention of coming to the full house of bishops with a political statement that would be seriously weakened by opposition. Two-thirds majority is all that is needed for passage of such a paper, but two-thirds is much too little for the impact that this text has to have. A straw-vote at the November

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Tom Cornell works with the Catholic Peace Fellowship and runs a soup-kitchen at a Catholic Worker house in Connecticut.

Peace Sabbath/Peace Sunday

This May 27-30, more than 10,000 churches and synagogues in the United States will be participating in the fifth annual Peace Sabbath/Peace Sunday.

The theme for the weekend of workshops and witness is taken from Leviticus 19, in which God admonishes Moses and the children of Israel: "Do not make and worship gods of metal..." The focus for the weekend is on both the idolatry of trusting in weapons and on the human sacrifices involved in the arms race.

Resource packets for this event (including a book of sermons on peace, suggested liturgies, a camera-ready bulletin insert, resources for children, an action suggestion guide, a comprehensive resource list, a four-color poster and button) are available for $5 each; 10 or more, $4.50 each, from the Fellowship of Reconciliation, Box 271, Nyack, NY 10960.

bishops' meeting in Washington showed overwhelming approval, with some reservations.

By the time it comes to final vote, the committee wants to have, and probably will have, I believe, all but a dozen or so votes. Criticism was headed off by the committee by relying heavily on papal statements, especially the Casaroli speech at the U.N. (I call it the Casaroli speech because, although it was given for the Holy Father, it was almost certainly not written by him but by Casaroli). The conservatives likely to be most hesitant about challenging government defense policy are also the ones most likely to defer to Rome's reading of a situation. Michael Novack and a crew of Catholic conservatives are attempting to bring these conservative bishops back to the Cold War, but they are having a hard time rallying any constituency. Undercutting from the farthest left was effectively dulled by Bishop Gumbleton's presence on the bishop's committee, since he is the principle spokesman of the organized Catholic peace constituency.

The bishops' committee and staff recently arrived back from Rome where they held discussions with members of the French and German hierarchies who are upset about the turn the American bishops are taking. But Archbishop Bernardin stated publicly that the meeting was held at the initiative of the American bishops and stated that there would be no significant modification of the pastoral beyond a restatement of the principle of the right of personal and collective self-defense. That is a harmless abstraction, given the state of the discussion. Other European hierarchies are more inclined to take the U.S. bishops lead, including the Italians!

When *Pacem in Terris* was promulgated in April, 1963, others besides Catholics recognized some of its significance. The Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions and the International Fellowship of Reconciliation sponsored study seminars and conferences all over the country to help spread its teachings. We could not then imagine the progress the Church would make in the years since along the path to peace. But *Pacem in Terris, Peace on Earth*, of Pope John XXIII, was the watershed. the U.S. Bishops' Pastoral on Disarmament could have as profound and an even more radical effect. It is not addressed to Catholics only, nor is it for Catholics only to read, to study and to spread its teaching. There are many points where religionists and secularists meet, the most fundamental one is the point of survival.

The personalism and the humanism of Dorothy Day are reflected in some of the pages of the bishops' letter. The table has been turning, very slowly, and Dorothy and the Catholic Worker, which used to look like a "lunatic fringe," now appear more toward the center, and the old Cold Warriors are hanging onto the fringe. We ought to make the most of it.

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Civil Disobedience at the State Department

By Amy Melnick

Protesters at State Department wore bibs with the name of a missing Central American on it. Photo by Rich Hall.

On January 21, 1983, Ronald Reagan "certified" to Congress for the third time that the condition of internationally recognized human rights in El Salvador has improved over the past six months, thereby allowing the reinstatement of military aid there. Three days later, there were over 500 people at the State Department in Washington, DC calling Reagan's certification a blatant lie and protesting U.S. policy in all of Central America. Over 400 picketed the State Dept. while 126 protesters participated in a nonviolent civil disobedience blockade of the building (a WRL affinity group amongst them).

The blockade and picket of the State Dept. was called by the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES) to respond to certification and to the urgency of the current situation in Central America. There has been a recent rapid and dramatic escalation of U.S. intervention, with increased coordination by the military governments of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. In Guatemala, the Reagan administration has resumed military aid to the regime of General Rios Montt, in power as a result of a military coup in March 1982, and responsible for the deaths of over 8,000 Guatemalan Indians since then. Honduras has been converted into the CIA fortress of Central America, backing paramilitary hit-and-run raids into Nicaragua as well as funding anti-Sandinista forces in Honduras and sabotage ploys inside Nicaragua. In early February, over 1,200 U.S. troops joined Honduran troops for maneuvers on the Honduran side of the Nicaraguan/Honduran border.

The decertification blockade and picket of the State Dept. demanded that the U.S. government halt its plan for military aid to Guatemala, stop its covert war in Nicaragua, and end intervention in El Salvador. The demonstration began Monday morning, January 24th, with a short rally a few blocks from the State Dept. Each blockader wore a bib with the name of a missing Central American. One by one, each missing person's name was read into a microphone. The participants demanded to know the whereabouts of each of the disappeared and directed to the State Dept. the question that, if conditions of human rights are improving, why are these people, each representing tens of thousands more, still missing, tortured and dying?

While over 400 protesters maintained a picket across the street from the State Dept., 126 blockaders blocked the diplomat's entrance and main driveway to the building. One affinity group entered the premises and was arrested after unfurling their banners. All blockaders were arrested and most were released late that afternoon after posting $50 collateral, although 18 who chose not to post collateral were arraigned shortly afterward and were fined between $10 and $50, sentenced to one year's probation and, in most cases, given 100 hours of community service. Those who plead not guilty received trial dates.

The decertification blockade and picket of the State Department was organized by four local CISPES chapters. Participation came from a variety of organizations from the religious, peace, and solidarity communities, some of whom included: Casa El Salvador Farabundo Marti, National

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Demonstrators blockade the State Department to protest U.S. certification of human rights in El Salvador. Photo © Rick Reinhard.

Amy Melnick is a WRL member who worked with NYC Cispes to organize the January 24th blockade.

Report from Nicaragua

By Linnea Capps

Reading the *New York Times* one would come away with an impression of a Nicaragua fraught with irreconciliable differences, a nation paralyzed by economic troubles and the fear of an invasion from Honduras. The news I bring is simple: it just isn't so. At least that was the conclusion I came to following a visit by a delegation of 22 U.S. democratic socialists who made an official visit to Nicaragua at the invitation of the Sandinistas in January.

Leaders of the Sandinistas and their trade unions and members of opposition parties and independent unions met with us, giving us the chance to put tough questions to both sides. We were encouraged to find important areas of agreement between the Sandinistas and the opposition.

No one within Nicaragua wants a return to the bygone days of Somoza. There is unity in opposition to U.S. foreign policy as it seeks to isolate Nicaragua and bankroll Somocista counter-revolutionaries in Honduras. And most of the opposition is supportive of the agricultural, education and health care programs of the government.

A number of important problem areas exist and were discussed at length with the government and opposition. We met with Commandante Bayardo Arce of the nine-member FSLN Directorate and Junta member Sergio Ramirez. Elections and the laws governing political parties were of particular concern to the Coordinadora Democratica, a coalition of opposition parties, unions and business groups. The Sandinistas have pledged to hold elections in 1985 and are presently engaged in drawing up the laws which will govern the balloting. Opposition groups claim they are unable to plug into the political process at present and are not able, in some cases, to announce public meetings. The Coordinadora ranges in ideology from the Social Democratic Party to COSEP, representing business interests and probably will disagree among themselves over how to deal with the upcoming elections. The opposition trade union federation CTN expressed similar fears that the FSLN was trying to dominate all union organizing. This view was disputed by the FSLN-affiliated union federation which pointed to free representation elections and a labor relations board established to settle disputes.

Freedom of the press is yet another serious problem in Nicaragua. The delegation had the unique opportunity to meet with the directors of the opposition daily *La Prensa* and the independent pro-Sandinista paper *Nuevo Diario*. At *La Prensa* we met with Violeta Chamorro, a former member of the ruling junta whose husband was assassinated by pro-Somoza forces before the triumph of the Revolution. We were shown examples of censorship by the government and heard examples of government harassment. The director of *Nuevo Diario* spoke of censorship as a sometimes necessary evil during the present state of emergency but admitted that it has sometimes been badly handled.

Answers about non-alignment and Nicaragua's lack of criticism of Soviet imperialism were less than satisfying. Despite specific questions about charges of mistreatment of Nicaragua's Miskito Indians few answers were forthcoming. We were convinced that the government intends to help the Miskitos but were unable, during our short stay, to visit any camps.

The accomplishments of the Nicaraguan Revolution were evident. The literacy campaigns involved 60,000 volunteers in teaching writing and reading skills in the cities as well as isolated rural areas. In a meeting with poet—and now Culture Minister—Ernesto Cardenal we were told of poetry and literature workshops for

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Linnea Capps is a physician and is the chairwoman of the WRL.

Peck F.B.I. Suit Makes News

Jim Peck.

Jim Peck, who was on the staff of WRL for 31 years, has brought suit for $100,000 against the Federal Bureau of Investigation for damages suffered when he was beaten in a Civil Rights action in 1961.

At that time, Jim was one of the Freedom Riders who were helping uphold the 1960 Supreme Court ruling that segregation of bus terminals was unconstitutional. The brutal attack on Peck took place at a bus terminal in Birmingham, Alabama. A group of whites, including Gary Rowe, attacked the Freedom Riders. As a result of the beating, Jim needed more than 50 sutures to close the head wounds. Rowe, it was later learned, worked for the FBI and had notified the FBI in advance that the attack was planned. When this information turned up under the Freedom of Information Act, Peck brought suit. His attorney is Leonard Boudin. At the present time, Jim Peck is recovering from a stroke.

The story of the suit against the FBI not only made it into the *New York Times*, but *People* magazine gave it three pages with photos in a recent issue, and CBS national news carried a report. No wonder Reagan wants to limit our right to know about government activities!

—David McReynolds

Nicaragua

Continued from page 7

workers and peasants. In the field of health, massive vaccination and treatment campaigns have nearly eliminated polio and dramatically reduced the incidence of malaria.

We visited an agricultural cooperative near Leon and, although conditions included a lack of electricity and inside plumbing and cooking facilities, we were struck by the optimism and enthusiasm of the healthy and well-fed people we met.

One area where accurate assessment is difficult is the level of militarization in Nicaragua. The U.S. press has portrayed Nicaragua as a nation on the march, a military Goliath. Nothing seems further from the truth. While there are large numbers of people in the army and militia there is no conscription. Though there is heavy security at some government buildings there is no oppressive military presence. Nicaragua—unlike its neighbor Honduras—has no effective air force. For a nation under attack by counter-revolutionaries from Honduras and facing destabilization efforts by the United States, this is little short of amazing.

Despite the shortcomings mentioned above the government remains quite popular. Nicaragua is far from a totalitarian society. Although there are undemocratic elements on all sides, there seems to be good reason to hope that freedom of speech and political and economic pluralism can be preserved. As activists in the United States our aim should be reversal of the present interventionist policy of our own government.

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Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatamala, Catholic Peace Fellowship, Catholic Worker, War Resisters League, Women's Pentagon Action and CALC.

Civil disobedience has not been used extensively by CISPES, and the action was viewed as a large step forward by the organization. Working for peace and justice in Central America means combatting U.S. intervention in the region. And doing that will require enormous effort and many more January 24ths, with peace, solidarity, and all progressive people, working together.

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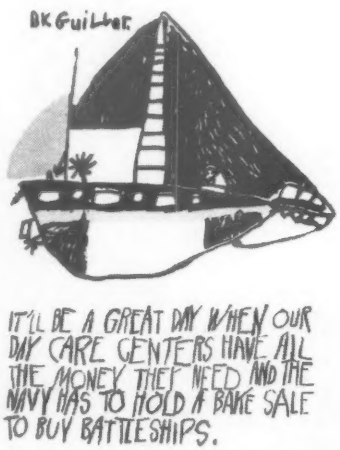
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Back Issues Urgently Needed

In our attempt to bind a set of *WRL News*'s for the office, we discovered we are short on some issues. In particular, the following are needed most.

#17	June 24, 1947
#26	August 10, 1948
#38	February 1950
#51	January/February 1952
#81	January/February 1957
#84	July/August 1957
#89	May/June 1958
#92	November/December 1958
#107	May/June 1961
#109	September/October 1961.

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WRL News (from 1967 on) is available on microfilm from University Microfilms International, 300 N. Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106.

WRL Statement of Purpose

The War Resisters League affirms that war is a crime against humanity. We therefore are determined not to support any kind of war, international or civil, and to strive nonviolently for the removal of all the causes of war.

I support this statement and wish to enroll as a member of the War Resisters League.

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